

Appendix F. Other Things to Consider

Unavoidable Adverse Effects

The regulatory actions proposed in Coral Amendment 8 would apply primarily to the rock shrimp and deepwater shrimp fisheries of the South Atlantic. There are no unavoidable adverse effects expected through the implementation of these actions.

Effects of the Fishery on the Environment

The biological impacts of the proposed actions are described in **Section 4.0**, including impacts on habitat. No actions proposed by this amendment are expected to have any adverse impacts on EFH or EFH-HAPCs for managed species. This amendment would modify the size of HAPCs to protect deepwater coral ecosystems.

Effects on Ocean and Coastal Habitats

The alternatives proposed by this amendment are not expected to have any adverse effect on the ocean and coastal habitat.

Public Health and Safety

The proposed actions are not expected to have any substantial adverse impact on public health or safety.

Endangered Species and Marine Mammals

The proposed actions are not expected to change the level of marine mammal or endangered species impacts from the status quo.

Relationship of Short-Term Uses and Long-Term Productivity

The actions in this amendment would not have an impact on the short term relationship between short-term uses and long-term productivity. The proposed management measures would protect areas known or presumed to contain deepwater corals. The actions may impact the rock shrimp fishery, the royal red fishery and the snapper-grouper fishery; however the impacts on fishing effort is minimal.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

Irreversible commitments are defined as commitments which cannot be reversed, except perhaps in the extreme long-term, whereas irretrievable commitments are lost for a period of time. None of the actions proposed by this amendment would result in irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources.

Monitoring and Mitigation Measures

Expanding the size of habitat areas of particular concern may require more enforcement and monitoring. However, the action that would allow for transit through the Oculina Bank HAPC will require an increase in ping rate from the required vessel monitoring system on rock shrimp vessels.

Unavailable or Incomplete Information

The Council on Environmental Quality, in implementing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality addressed incomplete or unavailable information at 40 CFR 1502.22 (a) and (b). That direction has been considered. There are two tests to be applied: (1) does the incomplete or unavailable information involve “reasonable foreseeable adverse effects...;” and (2) is the information about these effects “essential to a reasoned choice among alternatives...”.

The actions and alternatives considered in this amendment are based on studies of deepwater corals in the South Atlantic and are included in the Appendices.